

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0029] in the specification (page 12, line 15 through page 13, line 2) with the following:

[0029] FIGURES 5A and 5B are simplified diagrams illustrating construction of a drum and individual levels and zones therein for a drum-type vending machine according to one embodiment of the present invention. FIGURE 5A is a cross-sectional plan view ~~which~~ that depicts an enclosure 501 having a generally circular cross-section, with an opening 502 on one side. Within enclosure 501 is a center support member 503 to which are affixed a plurality of trays 504a-504e for each level. As shown in FIGURE 5B (without enclosure 501), trays 504a-504e are used to form nine identical levels 505.

Please replace paragraph [0032] in the specification (page 13, line 19 through page 14, line 2) with the following:

[0032] The opening 502 is sized to correspond to the arcuate outer edge of an individual tray 504. Each level has a separate vend door providing access through the opening 502 to the contents within a particular tray aligned within opening 502 for that level, or to a subdivided space within that specific tray. The vend doors may

be opened and closed by direct drive power door motors with gear racks integral to the drum access door as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,375,737.

Please replace paragraph [0037] in the specification (page 16, lines 3–13) with the following:

[0037] Trays 504, subdividers 700 and locking mechanisms 701 are all removable for ease in cleaning during restocking, and for repositioning of the subdividers. In the exemplary embodiment, subdividers may be positioned radially within a tray 504 in any of the three positions 1001-1003 (or any combination thereof) depicted in FIGURE 10A, or may be positioned in an askew or “kicked” position 1004 that is not along a radial line within the tray 504 as depicted in FIGURE 10B. Still further, as reflected by the guides 602 and slots 603 depicted in FIGURE 6, each tray 504 may be divided into five slots of equal size. The configuration of FIGURE 10B allows the tray to be used to vend articles of different sizes and/or types, such as a sandwich and a can of soft drink.

Please replace paragraph [0039] in the specification (page 17, lines 3–17) with the following:

[0039] Subdividers 700 allow multiple zones to be created within a single tray 504. Thus, control system 400 includes a programmable memory 405 for storing zone-

based pricing for a particular configuration of the vending machine 100. Unlike conventional systems, where all items on a given level must have the same price, the present invention allows different pricing to be associated with different trays on a given level, and with different subdivisions or slots on a given tray. The operator programs the number and location of zones for a given tray on a given level and the associated price(s) during initial configuration of the vending machine, or during restocking and reconfiguration. For the nine levels, five trays per level and up to five slots per tray in the exemplary embodiment, individual pricing for up to 225 items is supported, with full time-of-day, discount features, data recall features, etc. available for each slot individually. The pricing information may be electronically indicated based on a zone aligned with the vend door at a given point in time.

Please replace paragraph [0041] in the specification (page 18, lines 8–18) with the following:

[0041] As noted above, the vend door for a given level may be powered, in which case ~~programming of positioning of dividers within~~ individual trays and/or subdivisions may cause the vend door to be opened a different amount, depending on the subdivisions employed for a given tray. ~~Alternatively, the~~ The vend door servos may simply be programmed to stop once a preselected amount of force preventing further opening of the vend door (corresponding to the door stop function

of the subdivider protrusion) is encountered. If the vend door is manually operated, the subdivider protrusion precludes access to any zones other than that for which payment has been received.